Writing Program defense meets to plan strategy

By Peter Coffee

Leaders of a group organized to support the MIT Writing Program called for prompt action to prevent proposed cuts in the program at a meeting last Thursday.

"Unless we want to be faced with a fait accompli next fall, we've got to come up with some ideas today," said Tim Simmons, '76 of Students Organizing for the Survival of Writing at MIT (SOS).

Simmons went on to describe a structure of committees dedicated to accomplishing that goal. The discussion, involving some fifty students, centered on the activities of the Student Information Committee, which, Simmons noted twice with some amusement, "used to be the Publicity Committee." This group has two tasks listed for it: the preparation of a "fact sheet" for general distribution. The handout will describe the events leading up to the present "crisis"—Simmons' term—and will detail the background of the SOS group.

The Information Committee's second task is the preparation and printing of two questionnaires. One will go to living groups, and a modified version will be distributed in Writing and Experience sections. Both are described by Simmons as intending "to find out how students feel about the course and how important the Distribution credit is to them."

The administration has contended for years that Distribution credit is a major factor in the subject's popularity. Assistant Dean of the School of Humanities Donald Blackmer and Humanities Department Head Bruce Maloff have predicted that the elimination of Distribution, and Experience from the Distribution List will reduce its enrollment to about 120.

"The responses to that questionnaire," said Simmons, "should answer if the present administration's claims. SOS proposes a continued or stopped.

Brody said that protest actions would now be concentrated on sending letters and trying to in- crease enrollment. "The University doesn't have the capacity to handle a movement," she added.

In response to that objection, Simmons accused the university of "not being able to support the MIT Writing Program." He then went on to lay out a plan for a series of actions to be taken in the coming week:

1. Petition to the administration for a meeting with SACC to discuss the program.
2. Petition to the administration for a meeting with the Distribution Committee to discuss the program.
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The meeting ended with a decision to hold another meeting next Thursday, 2 p.m., in Kresge Little Theater.
General Assembly

All elections of representatives to the General Assembly are to be held by this Thursday, April 29 (with the exception of non-resident students). The mechanisms for election of fraternity and dormitory representatives will be determined in-house; people with questions about those elections should contact members of their house government.

Representation of Non-resident Students:
The following is the arrangement worked out for the elections of the 16 GA representatives of non-resident students:

a) Since there are roughly 170 dues paying members of the NRSA, the Non-Resident Student Association, NRSA will be treated as a living group, and will elect 4 of the 16 non-resident representatives by any procedure it likes. In the event that there aren't enough nominees from the rest of the non-resident population to fill the other 12 seats, NRSA will be given more time to elect people to the remaining unfilled seats.

The following will be the election procedures for non-resident undergraduates who are not members of NRSA:

1. Any non-resident student interested in running for a seat on the GA should submit his/her name along with a brief informal statement about interests, purposes, or reasons for running to the UA office W20-401 by Thursday, April 29.

2. An open meeting for all interested non-resident students will be held at 6 pm Thursday, April 29 in room 400 in the Student Center, to discuss the purpose of the General Assembly and meet some of the prospective non-resident candidates for non-representative seats. All non-resident candidates (outside NRSA) should plan to attend this meeting if possible.

3. Balloting will be at a booth in the lobby of building 10 from 9am to 10pm on Friday, April 30. Only non-resident students not affiliated with NRSA are eligible to vote; 12 seats will be filled.

The first meeting of the General Assembly will be at 8pm next Monday in Lobdell. All elected representatives are expected to attend this meeting. The meeting will be totally open to any and all other students besides voting representatives who wish to come and observe. This will be followed by a meeting on Monday, May 10 in a room to be announced at 7:30pm. The purpose of both meetings is to get the organization functioning for next fall and perhaps to take care of some important issues that need resolution before the end of the term. None of the representatives elected to the GA will receive pertinent information on meetings and procedures before Monday, May 3.

Writing Program Cutbacks

As we all know, the writing program presently faces severe cutbacks, which, seemingly, are being made for quite arbitrary reasons. The program has been under intense scrutiny since its inception two years ago. At that time it was decided that the program would be under evaluation by a committee of outside experts, for a period of two years; its continuation would depend largely on the recommendations of their final report. (The writing program had requested "outside" experts in order to assure at least some degree of objectivity.)

The Sivin Committee, assigned this task, has been conducting an extremely thorough evaluation. Every student in the Writing and Experience course last term had to fill out two questionnaires and take a writing test; in addition, the committee has interviewed many of the students and read the folders of work where individual students have performed. And more.... If anything, their job has been too good. Originally budgeted at $12,000, the report is now expected to cost over $20,000. Although the final version was originally due in January, the first draft is expected to appear early in May.

Since the Humanities Department wanted to write a budget on schedule in any case, they arbitrarily decided to cut back the whole program by 50%; even though the evaluation was not yet finished. Although cutbacks are occurring in all areas of the Humanities Department, a fifty percent cutback seems totally unwarranted in this case. It is claimed that 1) the program is quite expensive and 2) that a sharp drop in student enrollment in the program is predicted for next year, thus justifying fewer sections. Over 200 students per term now take the course (for a total cost of about $1500 per student); enrollment has doubled each year. It is not unlikely that the enrollment will drop off somewhat since Writing Experience I and II and I can no longer be used to fulfill humanities' distribution requirements. However, why did the program suddenly lose distribution? Could it be that the Humanities Department wants to remove the courses? Which is causing which?

The nature of the writing courses have made them subjects of constant dispute within the Humanities Department, due to their absence of emphasis on reading lists or on the "historical development of writing" approach. For these reasons the Jones Committee removed their distribution status. This brings up another question: Do the guidelines regarding the distribution of courses. Does the existence of reading lists and emphasis on "historical development of writing" make a course superior? Are they necessary?

Most important of all, what about writing? Why is it at the core of the humanities, what is? Why does the department wish to do away with such a successful program? There presently are as many students concentrating in writing as there are concentrating in literature; and the enrollment has expanded significantly, despite the fact that the program is so severely understaffed that many students have to be turned away.

A group of people is currently working on trying to preserve the program in its present state, at least until the Jones Committee's recommendations are published and preliminary enrollment figures for next year are tabulated. The group has held two open meetings in the last two weeks; a publicity committee is preparing fact sheets and circulating a petition to the students; other committees are setting up meetings with deans and looking into the distribution requirements. For information (and/or petitions) call Tim Simmons at 461-4781. Other people to contact: Jule Olsen, dorm 110, or Edgar Pelso, 547-1420.

Kick off Kaleidoscope weekend by stopping in for some live folk music,

BOB CONALLY
8:30 pm Thursday night, at the 24 Hour Coffeehouse.

This week's
MidNite Movie

HAROLD AND MAUDE
MidNite, Friday, in the Sala

BY THE STUDENT CENTER COMMITTEE
NomComm Hearings

NomComm has been undergoing a slight restructuring this past year, with the hope that it will become a better-organized and serve as an effective communications link between the student body and student-faculty committees. The major points of restructuring are as follows:

A. Student terms on student-faculty committees are to be for one year (with the exception of the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, two yrs. one year). All other references to student terms in Rules and Regulations of the Faculty will be one year terms.)

The intent of NomComm is not to remove students who are actively participating on committees from their respective roles, but rather to insure feedback on a regular and continual basis. Students who are nominated by NomComm will be asked to return in one year, to discuss present and past committee activities, and to apply for re-appointment, if so interested.

B. Under the provisions in (A) a permanent schedule will be set up, to go into effect next semester, whereby each student-faculty committee associated with NomComm will be scheduled for one hearing each school year (at approximately the same time each year, although special hearings at other dates could be arranged.) At that time, present student committee members would be asked to discuss their activities' involvement in an open hearing, and nominations to the committee for the following year would be made by NomComm, selecting from those students present at the hearing.

C. A monthly forum is to be sponsored and held by NomComm, wherein present student committee members and members of the student body (or any interested members of the MIT community, for that matter) can meet to discuss issues being dealt with by student-faculty committees particularly those of general interest currently in focus. Toward this end, NomComm will invite special committee members, but attendance and participation by any other students will in no way be restricted.

D. A file containing information on each student-faculty committee will be available for general examination. This file will include a short blurb on the committee's perceived functions, the present committee chairman, and present under-graduate committee members.

The Nominations Committee will be holding more hearings until the end of the term.

Sculpture Forum

An open forum on what's going to be done about the Henry Moore sculpture, and also on general art policy and selection procedure will be held at 8pm, this Wed., April 28 in the Sala de Puerto Rico in the Student Center.

Speaking at the forum will be Professor Wayne Andersen of the Committee for Visual Arts, who will talk both about the Henry Moore sculpture and all aspects of the Institute arts policy, along with other members of CVA. Anyone who's at all interested in the ongoing controversy over the sculptures recently will probably get a lot out of this. Though the forum is open to all members of the MIT community.

Anyone interested in this forum might also be interested in a talk to be given by Roger Kolb, next Monday, May 3, at 8pm in the Vannevar Bush Room, entitled "Mysticism in Contemporary Art Criticism (And How MIT is Paying For It)." The purpose of the talk is to present an alternative viewpoint on art, with specific commentary on events at MIT.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Well, friends, here it comes. This weekend, April 30/May 1-2 is Kaleidoscope '76. Supported by the Undergraduate Association, it is open to all members of the MIT community (and of course their guests). Here is an approximate schedule of the activities:

THURSDAY: 8:30--Kickoff Kaleidoscope by stopping in for live folk music in the 24-Hour Coffeehouse. Wines on sale.

FRIDAY: 3-6-- Jugglers, unicyclists on the steps of the SC. Jazz groups on Kresge bricks.
5pm--Special Commons dinner, near Student Center. 6pm--Don McLean in Kresge, with Salvo & McLaughlin & Friends as backup. 10pm-Baker Pub between Baker and tennis courts.
7 & 9:30pm--Paper Moon, LSC in 26-100, 76¢. Midnight--MidNite Movie: Harold and Maude in the Sala.

SATURDAY: 10am-4pm--Field Day. Approximately eight competitive events with prizes (and a small entrance fee).
10am-5pm--Numerous small events--TCA silk screening; APO screw contest and food sales; pink off the Student Center; MIT's singing on the SC steps, and more...
7:30pm--All Tech Sing, with beer and prizes.
8pm--MIT Concert Band, free in Kresge.
9pm--Party at MacGregor; disco intermixed with live band until 2am. Drinks $35/70¢.
7 & 10pm--Rollerball, LSC in 26-100, 75¢.

SUNDAY: Car rally from MIT to Wellesley, sponsored by MIT Auto Club.
10am--Bagels, cream cheese and lox on sale.
10:30am--Bike trips to Wellesley leaving from Science Brick.
10-11:30am--Special basses to the picnic at Wellesley.
12n--Official of the picnic: hamburgers, hotdogs... Pie-eating contest. Guitarists and vocal groups. Awards ceremony. Busses and trolley back to Cambridge, at about 3pm.

Tickets for McLean are still on sale. There should be a booth in Lobby 10 from 11am to 2pm every day. Any tickets which remain will be on sale at the door for $4.50 and 3.50.

Tickets for the Wellesley Picnic will be on sale in Lobby 10, 11am-2pm every day for $1. Information on special bus tickets will be available there at the booth.

Further details will be forthcoming later this week. We look forward to enjoying Kaleidoscope Weekend with you all.

Kevin Miller
Director, Kaleidoscope

Entrance forms for entering the field-day events as well as further information are available in W-0-401, 9-5pm.
Hub racial violence: a no win proposition

By Glenn Brownstein

The issue has gotten much publicity at MIT. One never finds mention of it in The Tech, but at such an occasion, I'd be willing to bet that there is a sizable number of students here who have little idea of the current situation, and worse still, a number who really don't care who 'can't be bothered' with the problems of the city across the river.

The past two years in Boston have been turbulent and unpleasant. As a result, much has been done to alleviate these problems; despite some remaining unresolved. Two South Boston representatives refused to sign an anti-violence statement drafted by Boston state legislators because it did not mention the problems of the polluted streets and those leaders on both sides of the busing issue refused to participate in a "March for Peace" called by Mayor White held Friday morning.

Contrary to the manifesto of a group of black youths who described the atmosphere of' violence and hatred in our city as a 'desert' or 'hell' the past two years in Boston have been turbulent and unpleasant, as a result, much has been done to alleviate these problems; despite some remaining unresolved. Two South Boston representatives refused to sign an anti-violence statement drafted by Boston state legislators because it did not mention the problems of the polluted streets and those leaders on both sides of the busing issue refused to participate in a "March for Peace" called by Mayor White held Friday morning.

Many, many local citizens were there Friday morning, all motivated to the fullest by a feeling of desperation about the city's ills. Boston University, UMass-Boston, and Northeastern rearranged schedules so that students could attend. City Hall Plaza workers and some construction workers were given off. Individual businesses encouraged participation. For all its good intentions, however, I fear it's the only real effort in the time of peace and violence as well.

There were sporadic incidents throughout the city in the past two years; some in recent weeks have led to a sudden escalation of violence in Boston.

Perhaps the catalyst was the brutal beating of black attorney Theodore Loeb in City Hall Plaza on April 5 by a group of black youths using, ironically enough, an American flag as the chief weapon.

In this tension-charged city, just one incident was necessary to touch off the atmosphere of violence and hatred that we are all familiar with.

I'm writing this open letter to the student body because of the recent recurrence of the problems that stem from a climate of harassment and violence. The people who could have made it work, the people who could have made it work, are either in a bleak desert of violence. The people who could have made it work, those who could have made it work, have not yet stepped forward to work for peace. It is a shame.

One of my students was stoned at a recent "March for Peace" in Boston, and Boston is to this city and this area. Make some judgments and act upon them, but no matter what the future may bring, the people, the students, among the people, must act now to form a bond against the forces that are attempting to destroy us.

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Writing: two sides

Student scatophiles

To the Editor:

What with all this silly arguing over homoeroticism, I feel it is time I aired my own pet peeve. The people on this campus who are really doing their part for immorality, unnaturalness, and degeneracy are those small hard core who are totally lacking in personal hygiene.

Don't get me wrong; I don't mean those of us who, beset with ten problem sets, put off shampooing for a couple more days, or occasionally forget the deodorant, or get two days' mileage out of a pair of socks. I mean the people who never wash. I mean the people you see in classes whose uncrowned hair is dripping three weeks' worth of oil and dandruff; people whose foot odor will gag you when they decide to kick their shoes off at an LSC movie; people who have refined the art of nose-picking into an exquisite torture for their fascinated, horrified neighbors in a boring lecture; etc., etc., ad nauseum. If deadlines are next to godliness, then these folk must be the Devil's own emissaries. Anything must be done before they unite and form the Student Scatophile League. I suggest we give these moral mediocrities, these potential carriers of disease, one week to clean up. If they fail to do so, we should have no choice but to notify their parents.

Libby Cone '77

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9-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. through May 4th
"Iguana": commendable production

(Continued from page 1.)

Fennell rages defiantly, as he explains to Miss Jelkes the circumstances behind his being locked out by the parishioners at his first church but the speech - Shannon's most important - clearly calls for self-deprecation, guilt, fear, and a range of other emotions. Fennell also misses completely the Southernness in Shannon's nature; when Fennell calls himself "a gentleman born and raised," it's caricature, not character. Fennell is right in not putting on false accents or mannerisms, but he has no feel for the grandeur and self-possession that some naturally to a Southern evangelist. He looks smaller as a result.

Morgello's portrayal of Miss Jelkes is better, but suffers from making the proper spinster over- proper. Miss Jelkes left the self-consciousness of too much propriety; several circumstantialities of the globe behind her, but is haunted by much more serious demons of her own. Morgello's primness - and horribly affected accent - won't let the real Jelkes come through for a large part of the play.

Other members of the cast face much simpler roles, and execute them well. Gretchen Megawen '78 is as brassy and womanly on stage - although perhaps a bit too loud - as Maxine Faulk, the not-scribbled, nor simpified widow of the Costa Verde's owner, must be. The German family occupying another part of the hotel is well played, provided that, as I suspect, Williams meant them only to provide some occasional comic relief. Jim Walker '78, as the grandfather, got the only really good aging treatment given to the cast, and played the world's oldest living poet with a deft sense of timing. Dramashop's technical crew carried out their tasks very well, with a beautiful set and excellent lighting and effects.

The flaws of Dramashop's Iguana stem ultimately from the group's ambition: the cast clearly could have handled a simpler play with easier characterizations without difficulty. I'm torn between commending them for their effort and admonishing them for shooting too high. Iguana is definitely worth seeing, and I'd recommend Dramashop's production: it might have been better for the group, however, to have taken on something that would have stretched their talents without straining them so much.

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Phone 542-4771
Protest draws 150

(Continued from page 1)

floor when the demonstrators ar-

rived at his offices, agreed to

speak after being assured that no-

one would assault him and all the

members of his party would be al-

lowed a passage through the

crowd.

"We try to give a great deal of

freedom to the union," Wiesner said.

"I don't act as a dictator in this

institution sometimes - I wish I did. We have a lot of dif-

ficulties power around here." When

asked if he was in favor of further

proliferation, Wiesner said, "I

fought to stop it when you were in

diapers."

Gray pointed out that "two

years ago this was a non-issue.

The sorts of issues that are impor-
tant now just weren't a matter of
consideration then. Hindsight's a

wonderful thing but it's no sub-

stitute for foresight." "I think it would be a bad mis-
take," said Wiesner, "for us to

solve one problem and destroy

the basis for a national review

process within the Institute. We

would be acting in a very ar-

bitrary manner. You might like it in

case, but you'd hate it in another." Gray noted, "We

tried to find guidelines with the

Kindleberger Committee over a

year ago. Their efforts to find

guidelines found difficulty with

flexible receptions." Wiesner said,

"We don't have rules to cover
every possible situation — we just

look them up in the rule

book."

"I can't tell you what I think I'm
going to do when I don't know

what I'm going to do. If I read

everything I can get my hands on, talk to everyone — isn't that
tight?"

"When we get through with making a

decision I am prepared to
debate it and discuss it with

anyone."

* The deadline for submission of

entries to the F. Austin Kelly Compe-
tition has been delayed to May 1, 1976.

The competition involves a prize or $250 for a scholarly/critical paper of

3,000 words in any area of Humanities. Information is available at

5569. (203) 432-4229

* The MIT Concert Band, John

Corley, conductor, will present its Juniors to discuss adm-

mission to MIT. Just send your copy with pay-

ment for $250 if for a scholarly/critical paper of the Registrar's Office by Wednesday

within the Concert Band. Admission is free. welcometo attend.

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* The MIT Concert Band, John has scheduled a meeting

at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. It's a

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finishing year for the MIT Concert Band.
Roundup

B-ball splits twinbill

By Glenn Brownstein

MIT's varsity baseball (11-7) split a doubleheader with Coast Guard Saturday at Briggs Field, losing the opener 7-5, but coming back to take the nightcap, 3-1, on a complete-game four-hit effort by freshman pitcher Peter Steinhauser.

Roy Henningson '77 stroked a bases-loaded single in the last of the third to drive in two runs in the second game, and strong pitching by Steinhauser and excellent fielding plays cemented the Beaver triumph.

The women's varsity crew, although rowing 1500 meters in 5:49, had their best performance ever—finished a full 10 seconds behind Dartmouth in their race on the Charles last Saturday. The men's teams fared similarly, as the varsity heavyweight crew was downed by Northeastern and BU, and the varsity lightweight, despite a strong showing, lost to Dartmouth and Harvard, the two top teams in New England this season.

W tennis in tourney

By Stella Perone

Six members of the women's tennis team travelled to Princeton over the weekend to the prestigious Middle States Inter-collegiate Tennis Tournament (MSITT). The tournament, co-sponsored by Princeton University and the United States Tennis Association, attracted 44 colleges from nine states.

Competition with some of the middle states' top teams proved too strong for the Engineers, as no MIT entrant survived past the third round.

Chris Vogdes '78, in her second year of tournaments, lost her first round singles match to the tournament's seventh seed from the University of Tennessee. Vogdes came back in the consolation to defeat opposition from Skidmore College 6-4, 6-1, before bowing out to a strong opponent from Lehigh.

MIT's other singles entrant, Marcia Grabow '79, rallied to defeat a player from SUNY at Binghamton in a two-hour, 6-4, 7-6 contest under the middle sun. Grabow was knocked out in the second round by the eighth seed from the University of Pennsylvania.

In doubles competition seniors Pat Schettig and Linda Young, also returning for a second year to the tournament, dropped their second round match to the University of Maryland. The team rebounded in the consolations to defeat a tough team from Cornell in a three set thriller. Although they competed well, they were stopped in the third round by a duo from UPenn.

Anne Averbach '77 and Stella Perone '78 opened with a decisive 6-1, 6-1 victory over a team from Albright. In the next round the second-seeded Penn State team, last year's runnerup for the tournament's title, proved too much for the MIT team.

Trinity tops lacrosse, 10-4

By Glenn Brownstein

Nine unanswered goals, five by crease attackman Greg Carey, erased a 4-1 MIT lead and paced Trinity College to a 10-4 victory over the Engineer lacrosse team at Briggs Oval Saturday.

For a brief while it appeared that the day would belong to MIT, as Gordie Zuerndorfer '78 scored two dodging goals, running the length of the field to score the first and attackman John Forrest '77 took a pass from Roger Renshaw '77 and shot the ball past Trinity goalie Ted Judson to give the Engineers a 3-1 lead at the end of the first period.

Just 1:15 into the second quarter, Al O'Connor netted the rebound of a Zuerndorfer shot to put MIT ahead 4-1, and things seemed to be well in hand. Inexplicably, the Engineer offense broke down, and Trinity's continued scoring attempts finally paid off near halftime, when three Eagle goals tied the score.